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maloney (J. A.)

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### SOUND AS A THERAPEUTIC AGENT IN DEAFNESS AND TINNITUS AURUM.

To the Editor of THE MEDICAL NEWS,

SIR: "The man that once did sell the lion's skin while the beast lived, was killed with hunting him."

The attention of the profession was called to the beginning of my labors in the employment of sound as a therapeutic agent in papers presented to the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, April 6, 1887, and to the American Otological Society at its meeting, New London, Conn., July 19, 1887, and by publications as follows: "The Sphenoid Bone; Some of its Possible Functions," *New York Medical Journal*, August 11, 1888; "A Study in Physiological Acoustics: Preliminary Notice," *New York Medical Record*, November 17, 1888; a presentation of results in typical cases entitled, "Otacoustic Treatment in Chronic Deafness," *Annals of Ophthalmology and Otology*, January, 1892.

During the month of November, 1891, there appeared at times articles in the lay press entitled "New Way to Cure Deafness;" "Sound Waves in the Treatment of Aural Diseases," by Henry F. Garey, Professor of Otology in the Southern Homeopathic College, Baltimore, Md. The ambiguous phrasing of said publications I considered an injustice to me for two reasons:

1st. That Garey came to Washington on December 17, 1890, with F. C. Drane, dean of said college, to be treated by me.

2d. He had applied *similia similibus curantur* to sound, and with this only and a knowledge derived



from me, attempted to deceive the public through said publications by attempting to pose as the discoverer of sound as a therapeutic agent in deafness and tinnitus aurium.

I therefore addressed to the faculty of said college through its registrar a protest against this assumption of Garey, and received a reply substantially sustaining Garey, whereupon I issued a pamphlet giving all the facts, and addressed a copy to each member of The Institute of Homeopathy at their meeting, Washington, D. C., June 13, 1892. No notice was taken of my protests against Garey's attempts at deception, although Garey in his address before that body on "Massage of the Sound-conducting Apparatus of the Ear," said, "Massage of the sound-conducting apparatus of the ear has been used by me experimentally ever since the opening of the clinics at the Southern Homeopathic College in 1891. For several years past it has been settled in my mind theoretically that if it were practically applied it would prove such an adjunct to those cases of adhesions of the 'membrani tympania' and 'ankylosios' (quotations as printed in report; see Baltimore *Sun*, June 15, 1892) of the ossicles, conditions which it has almost been impossible to obtain from the past."

In the paper he gives his date as 1891 (the college opened in the fall of 1891, one year after his visit with Drane for treatment at my hands for deafness by "massage of the sound-conducting apparatus of the ear," or, as I have termed it since 1887, "otacoustic treatment").

In view of the steps taken by me to present the facts in this case, not only to the college of whose faculty Garey is a member, but the presentation by pamphlet to the yearly meeting of this school of medicine, known as the National Homeopathic Institute, they on the day of adjournment (June 17, 1892), through their "Senate of Seniors," which seems to preside over and decide upon ethical questions, made this report:

"We give notice to all concerned that violations of our code of ethics must not be allowed to pass unnoticed if medical associations are to be worth anything. And we would request our medical journals to make known the provisions of the code, so that our physicians may not err ignorantly."

And thus they teach ; how different their practice !

J. A. MALONEY, M.D.

1424 Q ST., N. W., WASHINGTON, D.C.

